



City Administrator's Report

April 2003

Key meetings/conferences:

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Council meetings

Community Events:

April 1-15	Flags on State Street: Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM)
April 5	MS Walk - National MS Society - Leadbetter Beach, registration begins at 8:00 a.m. (682-8783)
April 6-12	National Library Week
April 15 - May 2	Flags on State Street: Rape Crisis Center- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 12	Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition Youth Forum
April 12	Summer camp registration opens (564-5495)
April 19	Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt - Chase Palm Park and Franklin School (564-5495)
April 27	Jewish Festival - Oak Park, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
April 27	Earth Day Festival - Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Budget Calendar:

April 8	Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget filed with and presented to the City Council
April 29	First of six public hearings on the FY 2004 Recommended Budget Council Chambers - 2:00 p.m.

City Administrator

State of the City

Mayor Marty Blum and City Administrator Jim Armstrong presented the "State of the City" on March 12 to approximately 200 persons at a breakfast sponsored by the Santa Barbara Regional Chamber of Commerce. The text of their remarks can be found on the City's web site at www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Survey training

On March 28, fifty City staff participated in a training workshop to learn how to develop and conduct surveys to receive City program customer feedback. Several external and internal surveys are planned this year.

City TV - Inside Santa Barbara

The April episode of **Inside Santa Barbara** features the community workshop about traffic calming that recently took place in the St. Francis Hospital area. Next, look at how the City is making it easier for pedestrians and bicycles in the Shoreline Park area. Then, preview this year's Pearl Chase Society Historic Homes tour--get the inside story on each of the houses featured on the tour. Also, there's a new Water Conservation Program that will save water and money at local restaurants - the simple replacement of a single spray nozzle can save thousands of gallons of water. Finally, find out about Santa Barbara's Earth Day Festival.

This edition of **Inside Santa Barbara** will premiere on Saturday, April 5, at 9:00 p.m. on CITY-TV, Channel 18. It is replayed each week on Monday at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 p.m. A new episode airs at the beginning of each month.

Administrative Services**Training on job-based harassment**

The City is sponsoring "Job-Based Harassment" training for all City employees on April 22 and April 30. Gordon Graham of Graham Research Consultants, will present four half-day workshops and will focus on harassment based on sex, gender, race, national origin, color, disability, religion, marital status, age, and sexual orientation. Mr. Graham will discuss the effects of harassment in the workplace, legal liabilities, and responsibilities of managers, supervisors, and line personnel. The workshops will be interactive and include opportunities for questions and answers.

Airport**Youth aviation art contest – “Where Dreams Still Take Flight”**

In celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Flight, the Airport is hosting an art contest for youth. Contest guidelines are available online at www.flysba.com. Entries will be judged in three age classes and must be postmarked by Friday, May 16 and mailed to the Airport Visitors Center at 45 Hartley Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93117. Winners will have their artwork exhibited at the Airport and receive award ribbons.

New food concessionaire at the Airport

Starting May 1, Creative Host Services, Inc. (CHS) will manage and operate the Airline Terminal restaurant (Overlook Café) and snack bar (Creative Croissants Bakery & Deli). The concessionaire is projected to generate \$3,000 (10% of gross receipts) in Airport revenue each month.

Airport successfully launches GIS program

The Airport launched a Geographic Information System (GIS) program to digitally map Airport data and facilities, projects and the associated data. This technology has been referred to as an "intelligent map" or a "graphic database." This new system will significantly reduce costs of data gathering and analysis at the Airport. For further information contact Lyn Story, Senior Engineering Technician at 692-6053.

Community Development

Upcoming development review items

The Planning Commission continues its busy schedule for April, including the following:

April 3: Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Off-Leash Dog Park Location Study.

April 10: Concept review of the proposed annexation and development of the 70,000 sq. ft. office building and neighborhood market at the Foothill Triangle (Foothill and Cieneguitas Roads and Hwy 154).

April 17: EIR Scoping Hearing for the Wildland Fire Management Plan.

Public art review guidelines adopted

On April 1, the City Council adopted new guidelines for the review of Public Art projects by the Visual Arts in Public Places (VAPP) Committee. The role of VAPP is to make recommendations to the Arts Advisory Committee and other design review boards on the acquisition, placement, and presentation of visual art on publicly owned land throughout the City. The new guidelines clarify the review steps and process to be followed by prospective public art applicants. It should be noted that another review body, the State of the Art Curatorial Committee, is responsible for the selection and placement of the temporary outdoor art exhibits located in the heart of the cultural arts district.

California Preservation Conference in Santa Barbara

The 28th Annual California Preservation Conference will take place in Santa Barbara, April 24 through 27. This annual conference is the largest educational historic preservation event in the State and is expected to draw more than 700 individuals statewide. Visit the California Preservation Foundation website at www.californiapreservation.org for more information.

Town hall meeting on inclusionary housing program

A town hall meeting will be held on April 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room at 630 Garden Street to discuss the development of an inclusionary housing program for the City of Santa Barbara. An inclusionary housing program requires residential projects of a certain size to include affordable units for middle income residents. For more information, contact John Ledbetter, Principal Planner at 564-5470.

Finance

Budget update

The City Administrator's recommended budget for fiscal year 2004 will be filed with the City Council and released to the public on Tuesday, April 8. Public hearings and staff presentations on the budget will be scheduled throughout April and May with adoption scheduled in June. Review of the recommended budget by Boards and Commissions will take place in April and May.

Update on sales tax

The sales tax numbers for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 are in, and we are down 2.1% from the prior year. The news is discouraging, particularly following the 3.4% increase we saw last quarter. However, we are only slightly below our budget target of a 2% growth rate; fiscal year-to-date is up 1.6% from the prior year.

Quarter	Fiscal Year 2001	Change from Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2002	Change from Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2003	Change from Prior Year
Jul - Sept	\$4,578,612	9.1%	\$4,407,462	-3.7%	\$4,556,500	3.4%
Oct - Dec	\$4,656,055	2.7%	\$4,646,788	-0.2%	\$4,548,826	-2.1%

Update on transient occupancy tax (TOT)

Proceeds from the February TOT is up approximately 0.4% from the prior year. We are still ahead of budget, and we are up 3.8% year-to-date from the prior year.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%
Aug	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%
Sept	\$952,314	14.1%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%
Oct	\$839,946	3.7%	\$790,919	-5.8%	\$830,054	4.9%
Nov	\$691,398	13.2%	\$653,829	-5.4%	\$684,776	4.7%
Dec	\$594,145	16.2%	\$539,598	-9.2%	\$529,694	-1.8%
Jan	\$578,703	9.4%	\$511,090	-11.7%	\$583,413	14.2%
Feb	\$628,764	9.4%	\$611,322	-2.8%	\$613,637	0.4%

Fire**Wildland fire outreach program**

The Fire Department is preparing for this year's Wildland Fuel Modification Program with a door-to-door multi-agency information handout campaign. The handout will be distributed across the south coast foothill area in April and May.

Roadside clearance program

The roadside vegetation clearance program is under way in the Riviera area with a goal of clearing nine miles of roadway.

Air tankers for fire season

Unfortunately, the United States Forest Service will not have an air tanker or an air attack plane at the City's airport this year, because the Forest Service is grounding aged aircrafts. Our nearest aircraft will be stationed at Fox Field Lancaster 20 minutes away, which could extend the response time to situations in need of air tanker support.

Co-location at fire station

On the upside, the United States Forest Service will co-locate a fire engine at City Fire Station #7 (Stanwood and Mission Ridge Road). As a result, besides the additional fire fighting equipment, staffing at our local firefighting operation will be increased by two persons in the rainy season and by five during the fire season. Both agencies are looking forward to a long-term relationship that will increase our suppression capabilities.

Library

Library receives Santa Barbara Foundation grant

The Santa Barbara Public Library System received a \$35,000 grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation for FY 03-04. A portion of the grant (\$20,000) will be used to establish a collection of high-interest/low vocabulary books and magazines for approximately 100 young adult males who need to increase reading skills and basic education levels at the Los Prietos juvenile detention facility. Collection materials will rotate between Los Prietos and branch libraries, with new items provided monthly. The balance (\$15,000) will be used to purchase materials on small business planning, investing, financial planning, and money management to satisfy increased requests from Central and branch library users.

Parks and Recreation

Creeks program annual report

The second Annual Creeks Program report, written in English and Spanish, will be distributed on April 17 in The Santa Barbara Independent and on April 19 in the Santa Barbara News-Press. The report discusses key program goals and covers program activities in 2002. Additional copies will be available at City Hall and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Creeks program funding guidelines

On April 1, the City Council approved funding guidelines for the Creeks Program to direct City efforts and ensure that the use of funds remains consistent with the intent of Measure B. The guidelines list eligible projects and programs, include threshold criteria for funding consideration, and identify a process to consider unsolicited project ideas.

Summer camp registration begins Saturday, April 12

This spring, the City will offer two options for parents to register their children in City summer day camps and sports clinics. In-person registration is scheduled for April 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Franklin Elementary School. The other option is eRecreation which is available to anyone with Internet access and a pin number at www.sbparksandrecreation.com. In view of the success of last year's online camp registration, 50% of camp spaces are being reserved for online registration this year. Beginning April 14, remaining camp space may be reserved through a mail-in form found in the Spring/Summer 2003 Activity Guide, in person at 620 Laguna Street, or online. Call 564-5495 for more information.

Spring/Summer Activity Guide now available

The Spring/Summer 2003 Activity Guide is now available. Copies of the guide will be distributed to selected zip codes in The Santa Barbara Independent on April 3, the Valley Voice on April 4, and the Santa Barbara News-Press on April 5. In addition, the Guide may also be accessed online at www.sbparksandrecreation.com. Call 564-5495 for more information.

Santa Barbara Golf Club Driving Range: Phase II

The Driving Range - Phase II project, which began in February, is nearing completion. The project includes re-directing the hitting stalls away from the fairways, installing new landscaping, and creating ADA accessibility. The projected completion date is April 22.

Youth forum to discuss alcohol and drug abuse issues affecting teens

The Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition and the City Youth Council will host a Youth Forum for teens on the availability of alcohol and drugs to minors on April 12 from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. Teens will have the opportunity to comment on this topic through a mediated discussion. Other agencies include Friday Night Live, Isla Vista Teen Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Police Activities League, and The Living Room. Community service credit is available for teens who attend.

New Plaza Vera Cruz playground constructed

A new playground was constructed at Plaza Vera Cruz Park with a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. This new playground, including the rubber surfacing surrounding the area, is constructed with recycled materials. Access paths, landscaping, and a new picnic area will soon be added.

Shoreline Park

On February 21, Mayor Blum cut the ribbon on the replacement stairway. The original stairway was built in the 1960's as part of the original park construction.

In March a new playground at Shoreline Park was opened to the public.

Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Dog Off Leash Study underway

A draft environmental report was released February 28, initiating the public review period which closes on April 14. The Douglas Family Preserve (DFP) Management Plan effort began in 1997 when DFP became a City park. The Dog Off-Leash Location study was commissioned to identify potential dog off-leash park locations within the City and the greater Santa Barbara County area. City locations chosen for review include Hale Park and the beach below Shoreline Park to the westerly City limit. Action on the Management Plan is expected in the Fall.

Police

War Protests

Through March there have been 28 Saturday war protest marches in downtown Santa Barbara plus other protests costing nearly \$100,000 for law enforcement support. Combined with a community oriented approach, Police efforts include ongoing communication with protest organizers, residents, business owners, the California Highway Patrol, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. We will continue to provide police service as the protests continue.

Purse snatcher goes to jail

On March 1, Officer Craig Burleigh went to the "Bag Store" on State Street on a call about a suspicious man attempting to use a female's credit card. After taking the report and searching the area, Officer Burleigh found the suspect asleep and intoxicated in a downtown movie theater. It turns out that the suspect was in possession of a credit card and purse stolen from a Connecticut tourist at the Radisson Hotel earlier that day. The suspect purchased clothing with the credit card, spent some cash from the purse, and fortunately kept all of the victim's identification documents which were returned to the victim. The suspect went to jail for three felonies and we were able to save a vacation from being a bad experience.

Crime Stopper tip leads to armed robbery arrest

On March 26, detectives from the Major Crimes Unit at the Sheriff's Department arrested a suspect in connection with an armed robbery that occurred at Sav-On Drug in Goleta in early February. This case was solved thanks to a valuable lead received on the Crime Stoppers Tip Line. This is the first tip to lead to an arrest since Crime Stoppers started in late January. The Crime Stoppers Board of Directors will meet to determine a cash award for the tip.

Public Works**State of the City's water supply**

Last year we reported that drought was not yet a concern, despite the lowest rainfall in over 40 years. This year's rainfall has been near average, but runoff has been low. As a result, we are closer to a potential drought situation. The main gauge of drought vulnerability is the amount of water stored in the regional reservoir at Lake Cachuma, which is expected to drop below 56% of total capacity some time this year.

While is not yet the time to launch a drought situation campaign, efficient water use will help us maintain adequate supplies to get through a drought that might develop. Call the Water Conservation Hotline, at 564-5460, if you need any help.

City Hall generator and ADA compliant driveway complete

Mayor Marty Blum cut the ribbon and officially opened the City Hall driveway entrance and employee patio on March 19. The ribbon cutting marked the finish of a six-month construction project that involved the installation of a 375 KVA emergency electrical generator and automatic transfer switch designed to meet 100% of the electrical power requirements for City Hall in times of emergency. The work in the driveway entrance provided an excellent opportunity to modify the slope and finish to make it ADA compliant. Additional enhancements provided by the project included the replacement of the 80 year old City Hall sewer lateral, the replacement of the storm water sump basin, the enclosure of trash dumpsters and the creation of an out door courtyard/patio for staff.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Traffic Calming Charrette

On March 14, 15 and 16, the City hosted a traffic calming charrette, facilitated by Dan Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities. The three-day workshop was designed to work with the residents to develop a traffic calming plan to address traffic issues in the area roughly bounded by Alameda Padre Serra, Anapamu, Garden, and Mission Streets. Residents ratified a traffic calming plan and prioritized proposed improvements. The plan represents a desire to

slow speeds on residential streets, reduce collision rates, improve pedestrian access, and protect private property, while still maintaining vehicle access. Neighborhood leaders are currently canvassing the neighborhood for approval of the plan, which will be brought forward for City Council consideration in the Spring.

Waterfront

Harbor Patrol responds quickly and stabilizes distressed sailboat

On Sunday, March 9, ten miles southwest of Santa Barbara, the vessel Pilgrim was returning from Santa Cruz Island when the crew heard a mayday distress call from the Heather Jean, a 32' Catalina rented from the Santa Barbara Sailing Center. The sailboat was taking on water from a leaking valve and was in danger of sinking. The Pilgrim was still two miles away from the helpless vessel when Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol Boat-3 arrived on the scene. Harbor Patrol Officer Jeff Browning boarded the distressed vessel and quickly staunched the flow of water. Additional help came when the Sea Sport 22 arrived from the Santa Barbara Sailing Center. Captain Laura Trich, employee of the Santa Barbara Sailing Center, boarded the vessel and assisted Officer Browning. The Santa Barbara Sailing Center Operations Manager Skip Abed escorted the Heather Jean back to Santa Barbara after being secured.

Anne Marie and Grant Castleberg on the Pilgrim witnessed the incident and had this to say about the Harbor Patrol's response, "an impressive maneuver beautifully executed." The Castlebergs went on to say, "It is reassuring to know that the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol is there for us boaters when we need them. Congratulations and thanks on behalf of local Santa Barbara boaters."

Current Job Openings

Open Recruitments

Office Specialist II	Continuous
Senior Office Specialist	Continuous
Recreation Supervisor - Aquatics	Apply by May 2, 2003

Promotional Recruitments

Maintenance Coordinator	Apply by April 4, 2003
Wastewater Collection System Operator	Apply by April 4, 2003
Executive Secretary	Apply by April 11, 2003
Administrative Assistant	Apply by April 11, 2003

We urge you to contact us with your comments and suggestions.

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